

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP2003/001736



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference 102 07 332.5 | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/EP2003/001736 | International filing date (day/month/year) 20 February 2003 (20.02.2003) | Priority date (day/month/year) 21 February 2002 (21.02.2002) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B41J 15/22 | | |
| Applicant METTLER-TOLEDO (ALBSTADT) GMBH | | |

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| <p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.</p> |
| <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p> |

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|--|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 11 September 2003 (11.09.2003) | Date of completion of this report 04 March 2004 (04.03.2004) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP2003/001736

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☐ the international application as originally filed☒ the description:

pages _____ 1-8 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☒ the claims:

pages _____ 1-12 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☒ the drawings:

pages _____ 1/2-2/2 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:☐ the description, pages _____☐ the claims, Nos. _____☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/EP 03/01736

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 1-12 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 1-12 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1-12 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2. Citations and explanations

CLOSEST PRIOR ART:

Document US 5 709 486 A discloses a printer module, suitable for fitting into a scale for use in shops, comprising a base plate having a mounting place (see figure 2) for a first supply reel for receiving a first roll of a strip-shaped printing medium, and a mounting place for a first printing unit having a transport cylinder comprising a rotary drive and a printhead situated opposite the transport cylinder.

(On its upper side the known base plate has pins for mounting the different printer parts; the lower side is an even surface, and hence, that is since it has no fastening elements, the lower side is not a "mounting place" for a supply reel and a second printing unit in the sense of the invention).

PROBLEM:

To create a printer module which is especially well adapted to the different operating requirements of scales used in shops (especially for the printing of [adhesive] labels and cash slips).

SOLUTION (CLAIM 1):

The base plate has a mounting place for a second supply reel for receiving a second supply roll of a strip-shaped printing medium and a mounting place for a second printing unit comprising a transport cylinder having a rotary drive and a printhead situated opposite the transport cylinder. Claim 1 therefore satisfies the novelty requirement of PCT Article 33(2).

INVENTIVE STEP:

The first printing unit can be used for printing labels and the second for printing cash slips; the fitting of the two printing units into a scale is simplified since the printing units are mounted on a shared base plate. In addition, the shape of the housing can be the same for scales having one or two printing units, such that differently equipped scales are of uniform appearance.

Moreover, the above closest prior art document offers nothing to suggest preparing or using the lower side the known base plate for the mounting of additional printer parts, in particular a further cassette.

Claim 1 therefore satisfies the inventive step requirement of PCT Article 33(3).

Claims 2 to 12 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore the embodiments they define are likewise novel and inventive (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).